The Lions' Pride

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A True Calling: An Ordination into Priesthood

By Nicholas Santos
Managing Editor

On the morning of Nov. 10, Brother Clement Rees, OSB, was ordained into the Priesthood. The ordination mass took place at the Saint Leo Abbey Church. Br. Clement, now Father Clement, was joined by Abbot Isaac Camacho, OSB, and Bishop Robert Lynch, several monks, the University's chorus, Dr. William Lennox, Jr., and countless others to celebrate Fr. Clement's ordination. The mass was filled with worship, music, and a strong presence of community.

"I feel a wonderful joy as well as a special unity with God as a servant coworker," said Fr. Clement. "I had been conscious for quite some time of the graces I had been receiving through people's prayers for me. I was full of joy and at peace during the ordination."

Fr. Clement, who had previously been a monk at the Saint Leo Abbey since March of 2008, obtained his Master's Degree in Theology from the University in 2012. Well known in the University community for his hard-working nature, friendliness, and devotion to his beliefs, Father Clement decided to answer the call of the Priesthood.

"The journey to ordination is an arduous one. One encounters numerous reckoning moments in which one must reconcile with the task they are approaching and with the person of Jesus. In our weaknesses we have to ask and receive the help only He can give," said Fr. Clement.

Photo Courtesy of Nicholas Santos

After the two-hour ceremony, Father Clement (middle), Abbot Camacho (left), and Bishop Lynch (right) joined others at the altar.

In addition to his ordination into the Priesthood, Fr. Rees is the Prior of the Saint Leo Abbey; Fr. Clement works directly with Abbot Camacho as a helper. Bishop Robert Lynch of the Diocese of St. Petersburg carried out the actual ordination.

"Bishop Robert was really great. His presence gave me comfort and courage as I entered the Priesthood," said Fr. Clement.

"We rejoice appropriately, but more importantly, we thank God this morning that another source of Eucharistic grace has been found in this community, where you, Clement, sit so clearly and firmly present," said Bishop Lynch to Fr. Clement during the ordination.

Jahiedy Vinas, senior and a member of the University Ministry, looks up to Fr. Clement and is excited for his ordination into the Priesthood. She was in charge of the Grotto Restoration Project, which Fr. Clement was also a part of in September 2015.

"[He's] another spiritual adviser; someone with wisdom and humility," said Vinas. "He's so patient, caring, and understanding. [I was told] that I should count on him because he would get things done. I really enjoyed working with him, and look forward to working with him further."

Now that he is a priest, Fr. Clement will have more opportunities to serve the University community. He hopes to continually support Abbot Camacho and the Saint Leo Abbey in his journey to serve under God. He wanted to deliver the following message to the University community following his ordination:

"Jesus is a very real person whom you may not recognize within you. He knows you. Do you know him? Maybe not so much. Trust him and do things for him and you will find him there. Trust that he is within you and he will lead you in life and as arduous as that may be it will be a life of love and joy that only God can give. It is the only kind of life worthy of you. Talk with him as an honored person standing with you and you will find your way," said Fr. Clement.

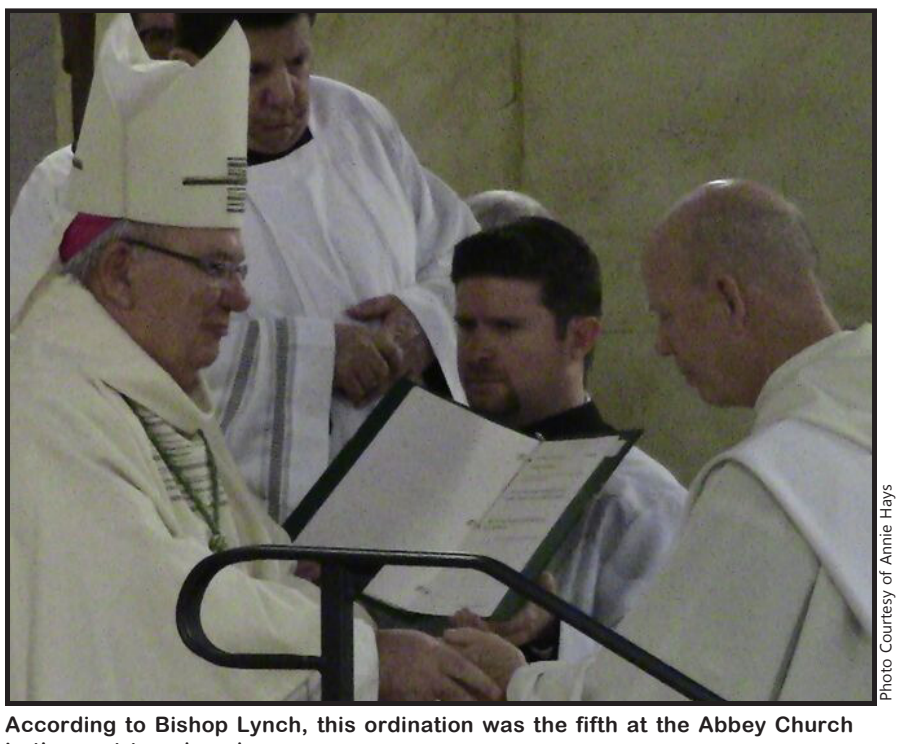

Photo Courtesy of Annie Hays

According to Bishop Lynch, this ordination was the fifth at the Abbey Church in the past two decades.

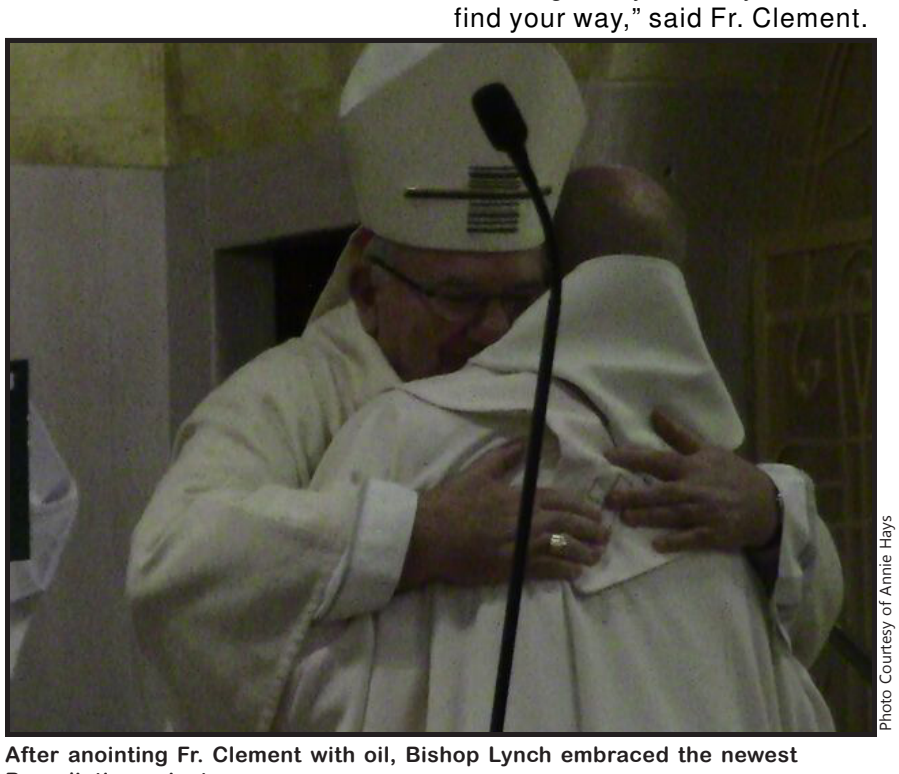

Photo Courtesy of Annie Hays

After anointing Fr. Clement with oil, Bishop Lynch embraced the newest Benedictine priest.

Science

Is Receipt Paper Deadly?

By Austin Chiavaroli
Contributing Writer

A cashier's job usually has them handing out receipts to hundreds of people a day who come to their stores. However, scientists at Environmental Health Perspectives (EHP) have uncovered something that many have not realized while holding onto the small sheets of paper. The health risks of receipt paper might cause exposure to chemicals that might be harmful to our health.

The paper upon which receipts are printed is coated in heat-reacting chemicals to eliminate the need for ink. However, these chemicals have a downside to them. Studies show that many receipts have used the chemical bisphenol-A (BPA), which mimics hormones and has been linked to causing cancer, obesity, and cardiovascular disease. Companies have tried to find substitute chemicals to replace BPA such as bisphenol-S (BPS) and 4-hydroxyphenyl 4-isoprooxyphenylsulfone (BPSIP). Unfortunately, these chemicals still show the same harmful outcomes in animals and are still risky for humans who may come into contact with them.

Toxicologist, Kristina Thayer, and a group of other scientists from the EHP decided to do an experiment on these receipts to see what color changing chemicals are used and the danger threshold of these chemicals on those who may be in contact with them. Seventy-seven cashiers and twenty-five non-cashiers were recruited for testing on whether or not they had BPA, BPS, or BPSIP in their bodily fluids. Once tested, Thayer's team found that they indeed had the chemicals in their systems before and after their shifts. Some cashiers even had two or all three of them at a level where health risks could occur.

With the final results, the team found that thirty-two of the cashiers held BPS coated receipts and after their shifts the amount found in their bodily fluids had doubled in count. There wasn't as high of a chemical spike found within the urine of twelve cashiers that used BPSIP coated receipts. However, in their blood stream, BPSIP was found more than any other chemical. It was even found on cashiers who didn't even handle receipts coated with the chemical as well. BPSIP was also found on the twenty-five non cashiers, leading Thayer to suggest that there might be other products that use this chemical besides receipts.

The final thirty-three cashiers were ones who held receipts coated with the BPA chemical. Looking at their bodily fluid samples, the team discovered that the levels of the chemical stayed the same after their shifts. Thayer concluded that this is most likely due to the high exposure of the chemical people get from other sources like food containers or toilet paper.

This study has shown that companies trying to save money may not be the best thing for the health of their employees and customers. While companies are still trying to find other chemical substitutes, the risk of using the current chemicals, even though slim, is still threatening to people's health.

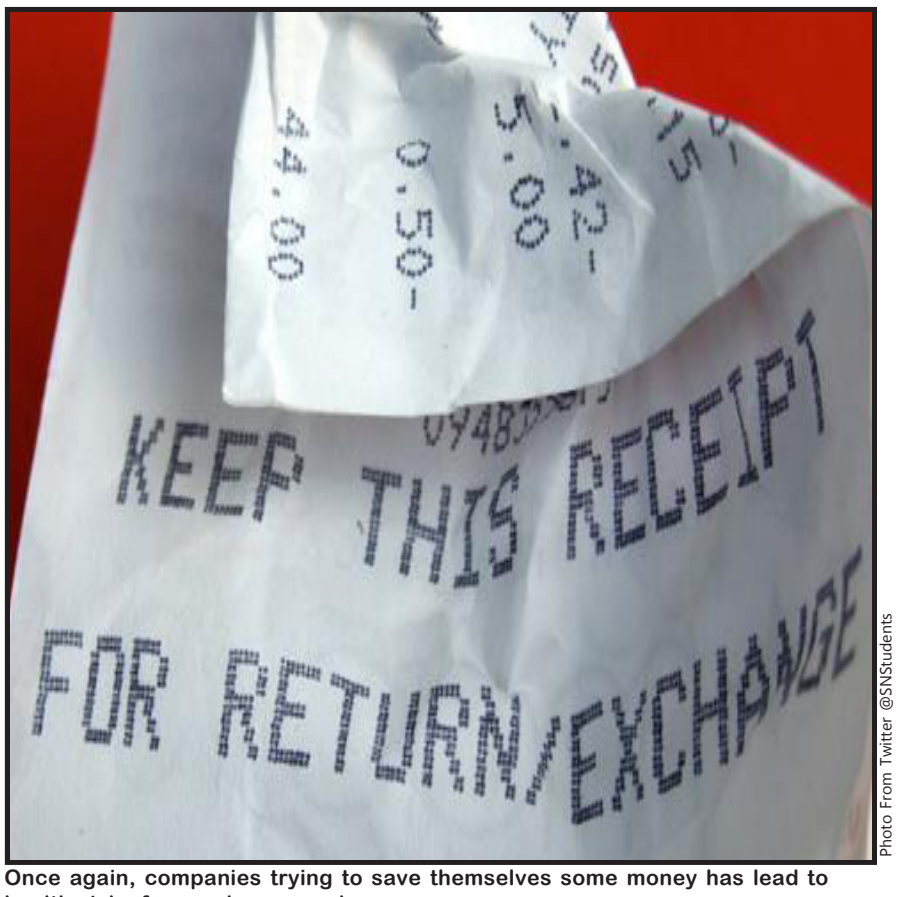

Photo From Twitter @SNStudents

Once again, companies trying to save themselves some money has lead to health risks for employees and consumers.

Check us out online at www.pride-online.net

Cross Country Nationals

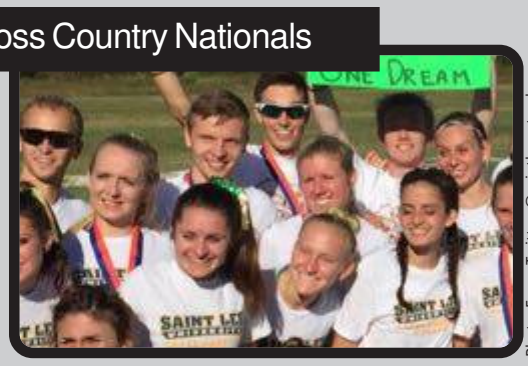

Photo From Twitter @saintleoxctrack

The Lion's Pride looks at the Division II Men's and Women's Cross Country National Championships, and what to expect there.

A.R.L.E. Radio Interview

Picture From Twitter @WTBN

The Alternate Reality Learning Experience has been getting more outside media exposure. The student candidates for A.R.L.E. had an interview with the radio station Faith Talks 570 AM where they discussed some ongoing topics.

The Last Witch Hunter

Photo From Twitter @LastWitchHunter

"The Last Witch Hunter" premiered Oct. 23, 2015, and stars Vin Diesel as Kaulder. This movie is full of action and keeps the viewer on the edge of their seat.

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Campus News

An Empowering Good Time

By Jonah Robertson
Editor-in-Chief
Editorials

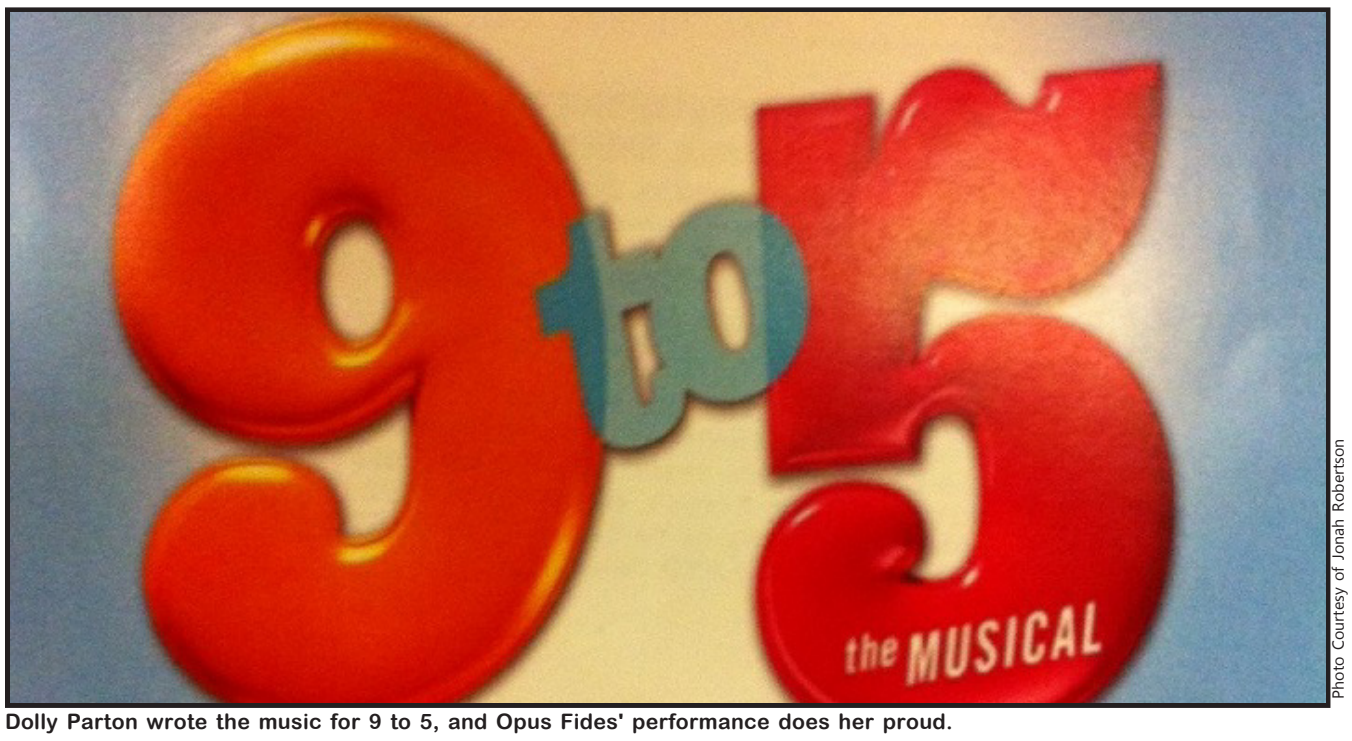


Photo Courtesy of Jonah Robertson
Dolly Parton wrote the music for 9 to 5, and Opus Fides' performance does her proud.

Opus Fides really outdid themselves this year, with their performance of Patricia Resnick's *9 to 5*. The musical takes place in the late 1970s, and focuses on three women working as secretaries in a corporate office, and attempting to overcome the struggles of their lives. While this premise might seem like it would lead to a somber, and dramatic performance, the musical is anything but. Filled with humorous moments, comical social commentary, and some serious messages about gender equality and fairness in the workplace, *9 to 5* is an incredibly fun journey, made even more so by Opus' spectacular cast.

The lead roles of Judy Bernly (Maddie Treadway), Violet Newstead (Amanda Topper), and Doralee Rhodes (Alexandria Hunkler) were all excellently performed. Treadway's Judy is quiet at first, a woman who feels lost and alone, but as the show progresses she evolves into a more and more powerful person, culminating in the song "Get Out and Stay Out", where she shows that she no longer needs other people, specifically men, in order to feel powerful. Treadway does a wonderful job of making the character feel alive, and convincing the audience to empathize with her.

Topper's performance as Violet Newstead is also phenomenal. As a widowed mother of a late-teenage son, she feels stressed and overworked as the audience is introduced to her. Throughout the show, she overpowers her bigoted and sexist boss, and due to Topper's wonderful charisma on stage, the audience is overjoyed in this victory.

Finally, Hunkler's performance as Doralee is equally great. Probably the strongest singer in the cast, her vocal performances are absolutely stunning, specifically in her solo number "Backwoods Barbie", which is quite emotionally moving. Alongside her singing, Hunkler's acting is consistently enjoyable, and some of the scenes between her and Franklin Hart (Vincent Pensabene) had the audience in an uproar.

Many of the supporting performances are equally enjoyable. Specifically of note are Hart and Joe (Adam Alexander). Pensabene does a phenomenal job as a bigoted, despicable individual, and had the entire audience rooting against him by the end of the show. Alexander is charming and has a humble stage presence that is incredibly endearing as he tries to woo Newstead throughout the show.

Though there was a technical hiccup here or there, for the most part the show ran smoothly, and none of the lighting or sound errors were bad enough to ruin the performance, and the cast handled all of these issues well. Opus Fides gave the university another phenomenal performance this year, and they should all be proud of the hard work they put into it.

Vincent House Educates Students on Mental Health

By Allison Cobb
Contributing Writer

Photo Courtesy of Allison Cobb
Elliott Steele detailed out each facet of the institution.

Mental illness is not a visual thing. It's easy to pinpoint a runny nose and stuffed up chest and say it's a cold. It's a little bit harder to see the symptoms of a mental illness and pinpoint what's wrong.

According to the National Institute of Mental Health, in 2013, 43.8 million American adults aged 18 or older were diagnosed with some form of mental illness, and this did not include the homeless, people on active military duty, or those in long term hospital stays, nursing homes, mental institutions or correctional facilities.

Despite the large number of people with mental illnesses, the vast population is not educated on the realities of mental illness. This is why Vincent House, an institution located in Pinellas Park, is set up to not only assist and promote individuals in recovery, but to also educate the public on mental health issues and those with them.

The founders, staff, and several members of Vincent House spoke here at Saint Leo on Nov. 12th to educate students and faculty on the realities of mental illness, and how Vincent House offers their help.

Elliott and Dianne Steele founded Vincent House 12 years ago after witnessing their youngest daughter's struggle with schizophrenia. She was diagnosed just six months into her college career. Throughout finding help for their daughter the two came face to face with the broken psychiatric system, and together decided to leave their careers and try to change that.

Vincent House opened their doors in 2003, and since then has been thriving as a place to help and improve the social and vocational skills of those in recovery.

"Taking care of those without anyone else to take care of them is vitally important," says Elliott Steele, co-founder of Vincent House.

Michael Ballenger, a Vincent House member since 2006, spoke at the event about his experiences. When he first started out, he was volunteering in the snack shop in Vincent House, and today he's a small business manager.

To help members find their place again in the workforce, Vincent House has them go through several steps. First, transitional employment, where Vincent House creates relationships with outside employers and facilitates the employment of the member. From there they move on to supportive employment and then independent employment.

"There's so much that they have to offer," said Elliott Steele, referring to the members of Vincent House.

Angela Parker, another member of Vincent House, says that "[they] have been in my corner since the day I walked through their doors."

While Vincent House works to help those in recovery, they complement medical care, and do not replace the need for psychiatric services. In a world where those with mental health issues are often overlooked, under cared for, and not very well understood, Vincent House stands strong in their mission to educate, help members in recovery, and restore hope.

National News

Copying and Pasting Organs

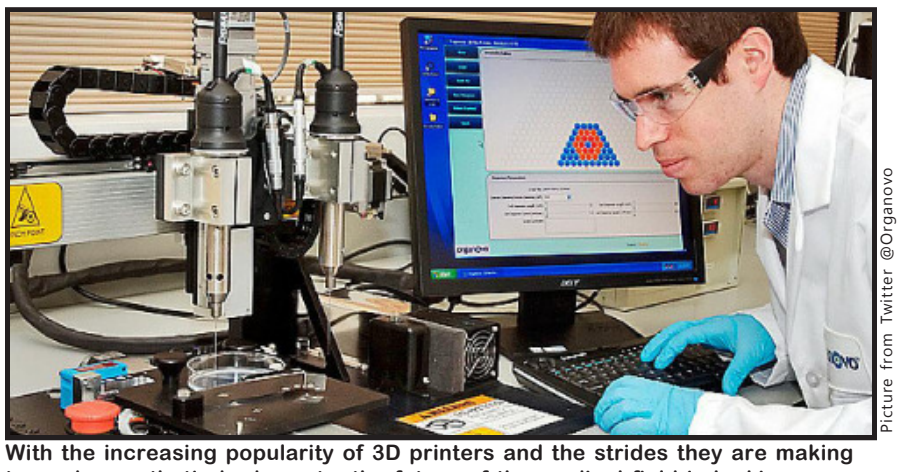
By Dakota Schwalbach
Distribution Manager

With the progression of scientific discoveries over the last few decades it is becoming harder and harder to imagine the impossible. Or at least what was once thought to be.

Synthetic body parts have long since been a part of modern medicine, from prosthetic joints, limbs, simple organs, and many others. The issue with the prosthetics made from plastic or metal is that the body often has a high risk for rejecting them. But what if it was possible to create them out of people's own cells?

The 3D printing of organs, more commonly referred to as bio-printing, has been in existence since 2003 when Clemson University professor Thomas Boland filed a patent titled "Inkjet printing of viable cells." Since Dr. Boland's patent was filed several companies have been created to further research and development of more complex organs and body parts.

One of the most influential companies on the forefront of this scientific revolution is Organovo. Since 2004, Organovo has been working to improve and further develop the research initially pioneered by Dr. Boland.



Picture from Twitter @Organovo

With the increasing popularity of 3D printers and the strides they are making towards prosthetic body parts, the future of the medical field is looking optomistic.

In 2012 Hannah Warren was born with tracheal agenesis, a rare and often fatal birth defect where the patient is born without a trachea. In April of 2013, Hannah received an artificial windpipe fashioned from a nanofiber mesh which was then coated in cells extracted from her bone marrow. According to ABC News, Dr. Paolo Macchiarini, who was the lead surgeon on the case, said the transplant crossed frontiers by eliminating the need for a human donor and a lifetime of immunosuppressant drugs.

Unfortunately, Hannah Warren died shortly after the procedure was performed due to complications with her lung functioning, there were however no known complications from the implanted trachea that were reported.

This case in turn led prospective ideas for the future of organs and prosthetics alike. With the creation of 3D printers the organs now have the possibility to be printed with living tissue rather than being formed around a mold as was done with Hannah Warren. This development has the potential to allow the creation of more complex organs and even brings into consideration the possibilities of organically based limbs or digits.

According to Dr. Leo Ondrovic, an assistant physics professor and a former medical researcher, there are several benefits and disadvantages alike for bio-printing. In so far as benefits the ability to have a replacement heart ready when needed, and the lack of possible rejection of the organ(s) by the patient are both huge advantages. Some cons for the process include the fact that there is a significant production time for the organs, and that if an organ is not previously prepared for a patient then practitioners would need to rely on conventional methods to preserve the patient's life.

While the prospect of bio-printing seems like a very beneficial step forward for the scientific community, some feel as though humans are coming too close to playing God. Dr. Ondrovic, however, had a different perspective. According to him, this step for the scientific community is something that God would warrant as it would allow for a greater interpretation of God's work in creation.

Freedom is not Free: SLU Honors Veterans

By Kaycee Coleman
Contributing Writer

Nov. 11, 2015 the University honored America's veterans through ceremonies and music.

At 11 a.m. in the SCC Boardrooms, the University's President and retired Lieutenant General of the United States Army, Dr. William J. Lennox, Jr., welcomed special guest speaker, Marine Major General James Hartsell to speak on what Veterans Day means to himself and other veterans.

"Veterans Day is a day that pulls us together regardless of our race, our gender, our creed, how we were raised, whether we're republican, democrat, or independent; that doesn't matter on this day. We gather on this day as Americans to remember and pay honors to those who volunteer to our nations call to serve," Hartsell said.

Some students found Hartsell's words to be passion driven and honest.

"You can tell he felt very passionate about [Veterans Day] and the United States," said Kayla Dialosio, a freshman criminal justice major.

Opening remarks were given by the director of veteran student affairs, Tedd Weiser. From there, SLU Army ROTC students presented the colors and ROTC student Todd Burnap sang the national anthem and recited the Pledge of Allegiance. Dr. Lennox welcomed everyone in attendance and dedicated a moment of silence to honor the fallen soldiers. Saint Leo music student Jennifer MacDonald sang "God Bless America" to introduce Hartsell.

Hartsell talked about what it was like to serve our nation in good and bad times.

"Veterans Day should be a day that collectively pulls our nation together in a time when many [people], both inside and outside of our nation, seek to tear us apart," Hartsell said.

Many students enjoyed Hartsell's speech and felt inspired.

"The guest speaker truly spoke of what it means to be a veteran. People gathered in awareness of how great America is and that really opened my eyes," 2nd Lt. ROTC student, William LaPierre, said.

"[Hartsell] gave me more understanding as to why we celebrate [Veterans Day] and what it actually means to veterans," Dialosio said.

Benediction was then given by Father Stephan Brown. The Saint Leo Chamber of Singers and Just the Facts closed the ceremony with "Song for the Unsung Hero," but the celebration was not over yet.

Picture courtesy of Craig Graves

The many veterans who have served, are currently serving, and who will serve in the future will always be in our thoughts and prayers.

In the courtyard in front of the Student Activities Building around the statue for fallen heroes, four SLU ROTC students, including LaPierre, released doves to symbolize world peace and send a prayer to God for peace, wisdom, and inspiration.

"I thought that the doves were nice and symbolized America's freedom," said LaPierre.

After the doves and guest speaker, the University continued the celebration with more activities such as live music and sending messages and goodie bags to the troops who are currently active in the military.

The University invited local classic rock duo J2, which consists of Jennifer Frazier and Jim Morris, to play at the outdoor event to keep people entertained while they packed bags for the active troops.

"My husband is a marine and [Jim's] father was a b52 bomber, so we both have veterans in our family and we thought it would be a good thing to do to honor them," said Frazier.

Many students enjoyed the festivities.

"It was my first Veterans Day event and I thought it was nice. I liked the pictures and speech that the guest speaker had," Dialosio said.

World News

Pray for the World

By Jonah Robertson
Editor-in-Chief
Editorials

On Nov. 13, 2015, multiple terrorist attacks occurred in Paris, France. Four different suicide bombings occurred throughout the city, and hostages were taken at gunpoint in the Bataclan Theatre.

As of Nov. 16, at least 129 people had died from in the attacks, with hundreds more injured. The extremist group ISIS has stepped forward and taken credit for the attacks. These tragedies in Paris have been called, by the "New York Times," the deadliest act of terror in Western Europe since the Madrid train bombings of 2004.

According to Professor of History Jack McTague, these attacks signify potentially increased aggression from ISIS.

"ISIS, for the first time, is expanding their war outside the Middle East. They are threatening to strike any country that is fighting them in Syria or Iraq. That means that the USA, U.K. and Russia could all be targets," said McTague.

Many are hopeful that the U.S., along with other major players in global politics, will work together to combat this increased threat.

"The initial reaction, as we have already seen, has been panic and anger. Major countries hopefully will work together more than they have been to combat ISIS," said McTague.

The French have been the quickest to react militarily, which is to be expected. In retaliation to these acts of terror, the French army called air strikes on the ISIS stronghold in Raqqa, Syria.

"The French will strike harder than we will, at least for now. They cannot sit back and let this deed go unpunished. But as many commentators have noted, a military response is only part of the solution, because this is a war of ideas and the ISIS ideology appeals to many disaffected Muslims," said McTague.

One side effect of this tragedy is that some countries are refusing, or suggesting to refuse to accept Syrian refugees out of fear of more attacks. According to CNN, more than half of the governors in the U.S. are refusing to house Syrian refugees as of Nov. 16.

Alongside these tragic events, other catastrophes occurred around the globe. A terrifying magnitude 7.0 earthquake hit Japan's coast, and a magnitude 4.3 earthquake landed in Baja California, Mexico. A Baghdad funeral was victim of a suicide bombing, as well.

The thoughts and prayers of "The Lions' Pride" and the University community go out to the victims of these tragedies. The world shall pray for those who lost loved ones during these events, and together we can move forward and honor their memory.

Political and religious figures from around the world took to Twitter to express their support for the victims of the terrorist attacks in Paris.

Celebrate Thanksgiving with the Benedictine Sisters

Will you be alone on Thanksgiving Day? Are you unable to prepare a big meal? On Thanksgiving Day, Nov. 26, the Benedictine Sisters of Florida are hosting their 20th annual public Thanksgiving Dinner. The dinner will take place at the Padua Parish Hall, just behind the church at 32848 Massachusetts Ave. in San Antonio, FL and will last from 2:00 PM – 3:00 PM.

The traditional Thanksgiving dinner will be served, including turkey, stuffing, salad, mashed potatoes, and a variety of desserts. It will be a time to give thanks and enjoy delicious food while in the company of friends.

You can make a reservation or request transportation to the event by calling the Holy Name Monastery at (352) 588-8443 or the Padua Parish at (352) 588-3081. Reservations must be made by Friday, November 20, as space is limited. You may also volunteer or donate to the event by calling any of the above phone numbers or e-mailing hnmdevelopment@saintleo.edu. Happy Thanksgiving!

Arts & Entertainment

Ready to Rumble: WWE 2K16

By Matt Vandendurgh
Sports Editor

Imagine the rush of adrenaline that must exist when a superstar hoists the WWE World Heavyweight Championship belt over his head, as 75,000 fans cheer him on. "WWE 2K16" allows for that to become a virtual reality.

Looking at the gameplay, the variety of options in "WWE 2K16" are fantastic. Players can play every type of wrestling match, from a basic one-on-one matchup to the 30-man battle royal match known as the Royal Rumble. If basic exhibition mode is too boring, the career mode, 2K Showcase mode and the myWWE Universe mode provide long term experiences that maintain the game's replay value. Aiding the replay value is the depth of characters. WWE and 2K created the largest roster ever, with 135 wrestlers on the roster so far, with more to come via downloadable content.

Unfortunately, there are only 13 women, known as "Divas" on WWE programming, on the roster, so that aspect is rather limited. Also frustrating is the lack of four of the most popular women on television right now. Becky Lynch, Charlotte, Sasha Banks and Bailey are noticeably absent from the game, despite being in some of the best wrestling matches of the year. Also glaringly absent is the option to have a female career mode. This is disappointing, since there has been a growing push for women in both sport and gaming. If "WWE 2K16" included more female options, it could have been used to mirror the televised efforts by the WWE to highlight the excellent women's wrestling that viewers have witnessed over the last year.

In said career mode, players create a brand new WWE superstar, molding everything from hair style and color, to clothing design. Players then take your created wrestler into the WWE's developmental territory, NXT, and have complete control of his actions. Taking one's created wrestler through NXT, the player can create rivalries, forge alliances and determine which title to go after. The post-match interviews allow for the player to shape how the virtual crowd reacts to their superstar, either embracing him as a good guy, or booing him as a villain.

2K Showcase mode tells the history of one of the most popular wrestlers to ever step inside the squared circle: "Stone Cold" Steve Austin. Players can see Austin's growth from his early days wrestling in World Championship Wrestling as "Stunning" Steve Austin; one half of the team known as the "Hollywood Blondes," to his days at Extreme Championship Wrestling and culminating with his triumphs with WWF/WWE. By playing each match and completing certain tasks within them, players can unlock the hidden characters and event locations that provide even more variety to this already deep game.

MyWWE Universe mode gives players complete control over the WWE. From creating a new weekly show, creating special shows, adjusting the rosters on each show and setting rivalries, players can turn the WWE into whatever they want it to be. Given the number of performers, there's plenty of variety to keep this mode fresh and fun for a long time.

Even though there is a lack of female wrestlers, 2K allows players to fix that as they see fit, finally returning "Create-a-Diva" to the creation zone. Just like the "Create-a-superstar," players can make a wrestler, completely adjust how they want them to look, and insert them into the myWWE Universe mode. With the options available, players have the ability to create whoever they want, and can play however they like to within those modes.

Also returning to "WWE 2K16" is the revamped "Create-an-entrance" that allows players to customize any wrestler's entrance into the arena. Adjust the lighting, music and motion for the wrestlers and show your creativity to the world. This can result in some very serious entrances, or some hysterical experiences. For example, take the two meanest, toughest wrestlers on the roster, and make them come to the ring as bouncing, giggly cheerleaders, or take a created wrestler, and craft an entrance that inspires an extra touch of realism.

In terms of actually playing the game, the controls are very good. Matches take on an ebb and flow feel to them that actually exists in real wrestling matches, and the stamina system forces the players to be more methodical in their approach to the game, rather than just running at their opponent and hitting every high impact maneuver they can.

2K has revamped the reversal system, as there are now a limited number of reversals possible to each character. Though they replenish in time, players cannot reverse everything, so they must choose their reversals carefully. Avoiding that punch may mean being unable to keep out of the bigger move later. Timing for reversals is still frustrating, but this is still a marked improvement over the previous iterations of this game.

The main annoyance in the gameplay is the submission system. Once in or applying a hold, players are taken to a minigame where they need to rotate a colored bar around a circle. If the rotation followed the control of the sticks better, this might be a nice idea, but the execution was poor. It feels more uncoordinated than controlled, and this harms the fun because players can lose to a basic submission early in a match if they do not move their colored bar fast enough.

Visually, this game is exceptional. The wrestlers look exactly as they do on television, and the entrances are more detailed than ever. Unfortunately, the game still struggles with some spotty hit detection, so the punch a character throws can appear to go through the opponent's head before he/she react to it. Also, some other visual glitches happen, such as a player's character floating away, or having to fight an invisible opponent. These issues can take away from the excellent gameplay this game has.

Overall, "WWE 2K16" is a fun, but flawed, game. The gameplay is overall decent, and if 2K fixes the submission system, gameplay would be excellent. The depth of characters is great, but it would be nice to see more of the women that revitalized women's wrestling. Career mode does a good job crafting the feel of being a real, up-and-coming WWE superstar, but adding a diva's option would go a long way into making this a more inclusive game. If WWE and 2K Sports fix these problems, next year's game will be one of the best ever. As for this game, it gets a ranking of 3.5 stars out of 5.

Picture From Twitter @WWEgames

With the imporved entrance presentation, ominous entrances such as Bray Wyatt's feel even more authentic.

Picture From Twitter @WWEgames

Unlocking legends, such as Brett "The Hitman" Hart, brings a sense of nostalgia to the game.

Arts & Entertainment

From the Funny Pages to the Big Screen

By Austin Chiavaroli
Staff Writer

From newspaper comics to TV movies, Charles Schultz's comic characters, "The Peanuts," have entertained families for generations. With previous "Peanuts" films only premiering on TV and on straight to DVD movies, the characters had never hit the big screen until now, with Director Steve Martino's new film "The Peanuts Movie."

The film starts with the Little Red-Haired Girl (Francesca Capaldi) moving into Charlie Brown's (Noah Schnapp) neighborhood. Love struck, Charlie Brown becomes frustrated about his constant bad luck and how it could prevent him of being noticed by the Little Red-Haired Girl. Charlie goes to Lucy (Hadley Miller) for help, and she tells him that girls like guys with confidence, so Charlie Brown must find confidence in himself. Charlie Brown decides to go through a series of activities in search of one that will get the Little Red-Haired Girl to notice him.

The art direction in the movie is beautiful, as the style still resembles the artwork of Schultz's original comics and films. However, unlike past "Peanuts" films, which used 2D hand draw animation, "The Peanuts Movie" style has a mixture of both 3D and 2D-like animation. The animators use 2D-like animation for the outlines, eyes, and mouth for the characters and 3D animation being used for the rest of the animation.

The soundtrack for the film has a lot of old "Peanuts" melodies performed by Vince Gauraldi Trio, such as "Christmas Time Is Here," and "Linus and Lucy." There are also some pop music singles thrown into the soundtrack as well such as Meghan Trainor's "Better When I'm Dancing," and Flo Rida's "That's What I Like."

The voice acting for the movie is spot on as most of the characters sound just like the voice actors from the original "Peanuts." The characters' personalities and charm have not changed as well, again staying reminiscent to the original comics.

While the movie has a lot going for it, there are a couple of issues. There is a side story that follows Snoopy (Bill Melendez), Charlie Brown's iconic dog, who finds a typewriter and takes the audience away from the main story and, for a while, illustrates the story that Snoopy writes. While this adds some charm to the film, it can also distract the audience from the main story. Another issue is that the soundtrack and film have a bit of pop culture shoved into it. While this can be more pleasing to younger audience, it can take the older audience out of the film as this does not stay reminiscent of the classic "Peanuts."

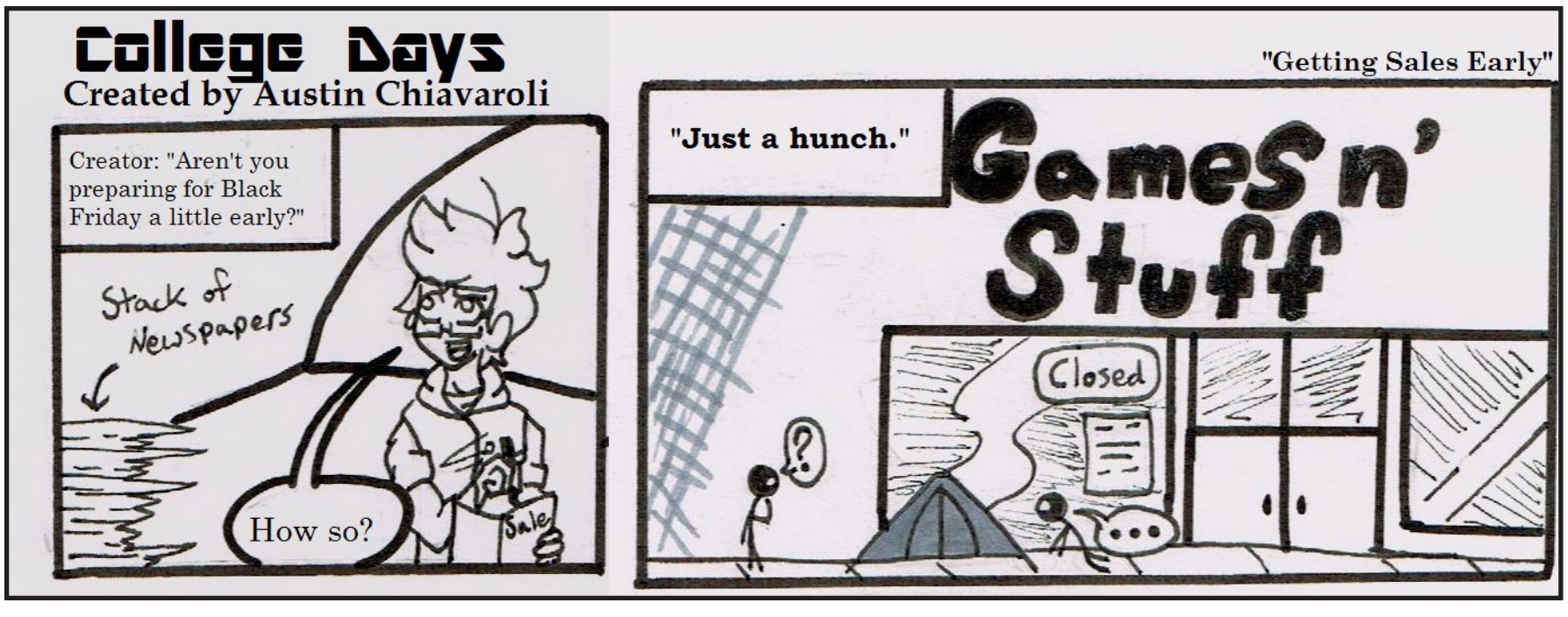
With this issues out of the way, "The Peanuts Movie" is perfect for anyone of any age to see. With a lot of laughs and heartwarming moments, a film like this is perfect for this holiday season as families are flying in to spend time with other family members. If you're a fan of the "Peanuts" or just want a charming family film, then this film is for you. "The Peanuts Movie" gets a 4.5/5.

Picture From Twitter @PeanutsMovie

Iconic character, Snoopy, finds a typewriter in a dumpster and writes a novel on his alter ego, The Flying Ace, saving his lover Fifi in the film.

Picture From Twitter @PeanutsMovie

Charlie Brown bring his misfortune to the big screen in the new installment of the Peanuts franchise, "The Peanuts Movie."



Sports

Welcome Lion: Meeting Coach Vince Alexander

By Matt Vandenburgh
Sports Editor

On June 3, former University of South Carolina-Aiken head coach Vince Alexander was named the new head coach of the Saint Leo Lion's men's basketball team. With 287 career wins (as of Nov. 16), Alexander brings a winning mentality, and a depth of experience to the Lions.

Following 10 successful years at USC-Aiken, the question was: why Saint Leo? For Coach Alexander, there were many reasons.

"First and foremost my wise has family in this area, and that was very attractive to us; to be able to get close to her family. She's followed me around for the last 18 years of doing this and we've always been in places where she's far away from her family, and there was an opportunity to get there," said Alexander. "Second of all, it's a great institution, academically. Not only that, but its financial stability throughout hard economic times meant a lot to me. It says something about a university that's still thriving when most universities are having cuts and cut backs, and having to cut programs. It said a lot that Saint Leo was still thriving. Finally, the core values here, it lined up with what I want to accomplish in my life. Excellence, community, integrity, responsible stewardship, all of those things. They line up with what I want to be and what I want to do."

Coming to the Lions presents not only a fresh opportunity, but new challenges for Coach Alexander. In the pre-season rankings, the University was placed 8th of 9 Sunshine State Conference teams. That seemed low for the coach.

"I think we're a little underappreciated," said Alexander. "I understand that it's a new coach, with not many players returning from last year. So I understand, I think it's a little unfair, but it is what it is. We are where we are, all that really matters is when the end of the season comes, where are we then?"

Looking at the team, Alexander talked about what he feels are the strengths and weaknesses of the Lions.

"Right now, I think our guards are very strong. We have some very talented guards. They're creative, they can shoot. They're a really strong team and they defend really well," said Alexander.

"Our weakest point right now is our inside play. We really don't have a go-to person inside, and we're not very physical in there yet," said Alexander. "All that doesn't really matter if we do what we're supposed to do and what we're capable of doing."

"Of course, every team has strengths and every team has weaknesses, and we have some weaknesses. We have to let our strengths outweigh our weaknesses, and that's what we're gonna strive to do. We're gonna try to be better than what we need to be, to offset our weaknesses."

With his 287 wins, Coach Alexander sits 54th on the all-time division two list. Looking back at his time at USC-Aiken, where most of his victories came, he aims to continue his success.

"We were extremely blessed to be able to accomplish what we accomplished there, and now we have to do that here," said Alexander.

Scores This Week

M Soccer

11/14: L 3-2 @ Rollins

M Basketball

11/13: W 97-90 Vs North Ala.

11/14: W 93-90 OT Vs #12 Ala.-Huntsville

W Basketall

11/13: L 79-78 Vs Clark Atlanta @ Fla. Souther Tournament

11/14: W 81-58 Vs Paine @ Fla. Souther Tournament

W Volleyball

11/13: W 3-2 @ Lynn

11/14: L 3-2 @ Nova Southeastern

Men's Basketball Kicks off Season with Two Big Wins

By Chad Marino
Contributing Writer

Saint Leo men's basketball kicked off their season by hosting the Gulf South Challenge Classic. On Nov. 13 the Lions faced off against an opposing pride of Lions, from the University of North Alabama. The Saint Leo faithful packed out the Marion Bowman center for the 7 pm tip-off.

The first half consisted of up tempo basketball that saw a bunch of lead changes. Senior Trey Griseck hit a last second shot to end a tightly contested first half, to give the Lions a 42-38 lead after the first.

North Alabama came out of the locker room on fire, and took a quick ten point advantage over the Lions. Saint Leo sophomore Ryan Burnett supplied a spark off the bench with three consecutive buckets to keep them within striking distance.

"I wanted to play hard, and provide a spark off the bench. Whether it's in a starting role or coming off the bench I want to do anything I can to help the team win". Said Burnett on his 18 point 9 rebound performance.

Clutch threes by Saint Leo junior Marcus Dewberry, and sophomore Tyreece Pierce evened the score, and gave Saint Leo the momentum as time winded down. Despite struggling from the line all night, Saint Leo hit a number of clutch free throws down the stretch to seal the deal, giving them a 97-90 victory.

"I was displeased to see my team shoot poorly from the line, but it felt good to see the young guys step up down the stretch," said Saint Leo Head Coach Vince Alexander

Saint Leo saw solid performances from a plethora of players. Dewberry, Sophomore Caleb Stewart, and freshman Carter Belling all contributed 16 points, with Brice also adding 15.

This was the first win for head coach Vince Alexander at the helm.

"I'm excited to get the new era started, it felt great to get the first win under the belt. We definitely have room for improvement, but I'm proud of my guys for competing the entire forty minutes." Said Alexander.

Saturday Nov. 14 The Lions squared off against the #12 ranked Alabama Huntsville Chargers in their second game in as many days.

"They are a very experienced team who can shoot the three. If we want to be successful we must defend the three and rebound the ball". Said Alexander

Both teams were proficient from behind the arc, each shooting 50% from three point range in the first. The high scoring first half saw the Chargers take a 48-46 lead into the locker room.

The Lions opened up the second half with an impressive run. The Chargers were quick to respond with a run of their own, which set the stage for an exhilarating finish. With the game tied at 80 apiece, both teams had chances to take a lead in the final seconds with neither being successful.

The OT session started with both teams playing extremely tight defense, but eventually the Lions were able to pull away with more clutch free throw shooting, and nab an impressive 93-90 victory over a nationally ranked opponent. Leading the way from the charity strike in bonus time was sophomore transfer Stewart, who had a game high 29 points. The Lions also saw another very strong performance from Dewberry who had 26 points.

The Lions start the season with two pivotal victories.

"It felt great, the guys are really starting to come together and believe in the system. I am very happy with tonight's performance, but we must still continue to get better" Said Alexander.

Photo From Twitter @saintleombb

The Lions got out to a roaring start, winning their first two games of their season